



The 2020 Battle of Shusha City



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“Modern Urban Warfare”



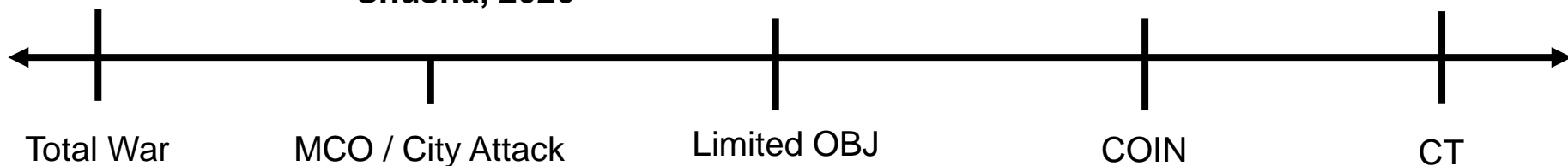
*Stalingrad, 1943
 Leningrad, 1944
 Berlin, 1945
 Vukovar, 1991
 Sarajevo, 1992
 Grozny, 1994/99
 Aleppo, 2012

Ortona, 1943
 Aachen, 1944
 Seoul, 1950
 Manila, 1945
 Hue, 1968
 Fallujah, 2004
 Mosul, 2016
 Marawi, 2017
Shusha, 2020

Panama, 1989
 Baghdad, 2003
 Sadr City, 2008
 Gaza, 2009
 Gaza, 2014

Palestine, 1944
 Algeria, 1954
 Venezuela, 1960
 Ireland, 1969
 Iraq, 2004-2011

Munich, 1972
 Mogadishu, 1993
 Mumbai, 2008
 Abbottabad, 2011



Executed through Decisive Action
 Offense Defense Stability DSCA (Tasks)

Why Shusha

A brief, bloody war in a corner of Asia is a warning about why the tank's days of dominance may be over

INSIDER

BUSINESS



SMALL WARS
JOURNAL

Heavy metal

The Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict hints at the future of war

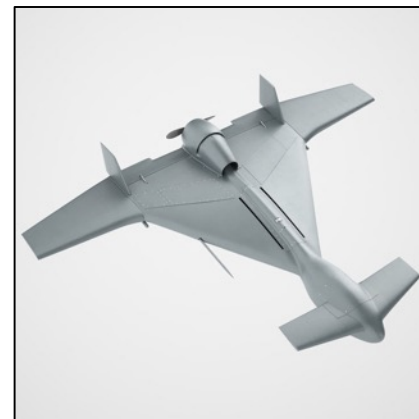
A fleet of cheap Turkish drones is slicing through Armenian defences



DRONES IN THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH



Turkish Bayraktar TB2 medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)



Israeli Harop, loitering munition, "Kamikaze drone"

The Fortress On a Hill

- Cultural, religious significance for both
- 1992 Est pop. 23,000 (Azeri)
- 2020 Est pop. 5,000 (Armenian)
- Strategic city for the entire region
 - Dominates region
 - Critical crossroads
 - Buffer to Khankendi/
Stepanakert
- Severely restrictive terrain

“He who owns Shusha, owns Karabakh”

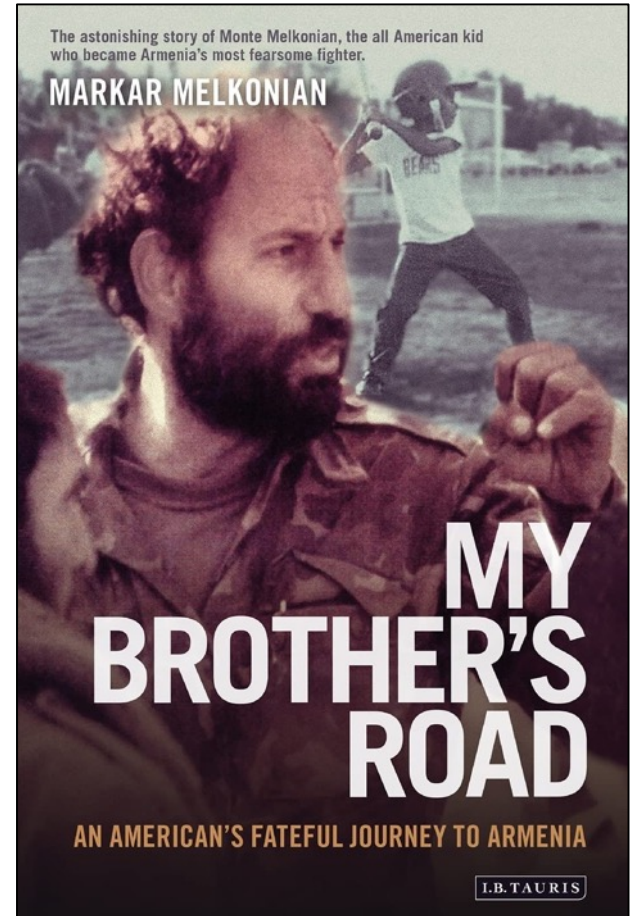


“Cradle of Azeri Culture”

Battle of Shusha

May 8-9, 1992

- Weeks of artillery preparatory fire
- Attacks on surrounding villages to draw defenders out
- “Scaling cliffs”
- Defenders surprised and couldn’t use artillery (“hugging”)
- May 8, main assault
 - Est. 1000 attackers
 - Tank-on-tank battles
 - Falls in 24 hours





Azerbaijan

**Azerbaijan's Military
Offensive in Karabakh**

27 SEP

Azerbaijan

Kelbajar

Aghdam

Khankendi/Stepanakert

Shusha

Lachin

Fuzuli

Hadrut

Jabrayil

Qubadli



Zangelan



Azerbaijan

**Azerbaijan's Military
Offensive in Karabakh**

02 OCT

-  Azerbaijan
-  Armenian seperatists



Azerbaijan

**Azerbaijan's Military
Offensive in Karabakh**

07 OCT

- Azerbaijan
- Armenian seperatists

Kelbajar

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Zangelan

**Azerbaijan's Military
Offensive in Karabakh**

19 OCT

Azerbaijan

Armenian seperatists



Azerbaijan

**Azerbaijan's Military
Offensive in Karabakh**

30 OCT

■ Azerbaijan
■ Armenian seperatists

Kelbajar

Aghdam

Khankendi/Stepanakert

Shusha

Lachin

Fuzuli

Hadrut

Jabrayil

Qubadli

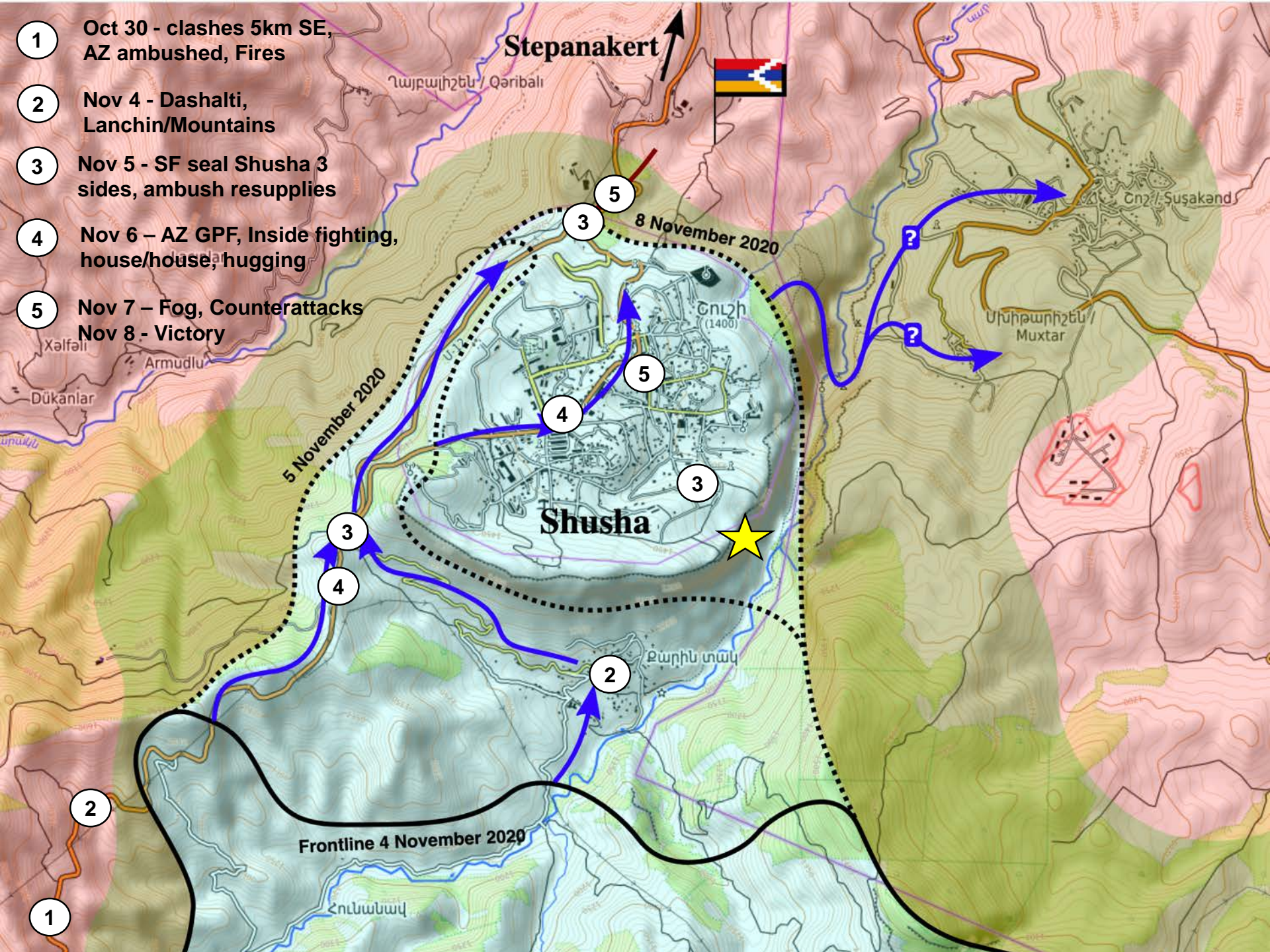
Zangelan

?????

28-30

26

- 1 Oct 30 - clashes 5km SE, AZ ambushed, Fires
- 2 Nov 4 - Dashalti, Lanchin/Mountains
- 3 Nov 5 - SF seal Shusha 3 sides, ambush resupplies
- 4 Nov 6 - AZ GPF, Inside fighting, house/house, hugging
- 5 Nov 7 - Fog, Counterattacks
Nov 8 - Victory







Lessons

- Cities remain operational and strategic objectives in war. Decisive.
- A full suite of modern, joint force capabilities is needed to seize and hold decisive urban terrain.
- Militaries must prepare for both urban offense and defense operations.
- The myths of city attack troublesome

